Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2002 TO JANUARY 11, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits ($ millions)	November			The value of building permits in Canada increased 7.1% in November, and is up 9.0% on a year-to-date basis. The value of non-residential permits rose by 7.8%, while residential permits increased by 6.6%. Alberta's monthly 37.0% increase in building permits reflects a 19.6% increase in the residential sector and an increase of 62.5% in the non-residential sector. On a year-to-date basis, building permits are up 11.0% in Alberta.
Alberta	648.4	37.0%	44.6%	
Canada	3,527.0	7.1%	11.4%	
Canadian Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	December			The last eight months have seen consecutive declines in the Canadian help-wanted index, including 5.3% in December. Once again, all provinces showed decreases. Prince Edward Island (-7.2%), Alberta (-7.0%) and British Columbia (-5.7%) had the largest declines. Year over year, the national index is down 27.6%.
Alberta	146	-7.0%	-17.5%	
Canada	126	-5.3%	-27.6%	
Urban Housing Starts (thousands)	December			Urban housing starts rose in December by 4.5% to 154,000 units, while total housing starts in Canada rose by 4.0% to 175,500 units. Five provinces posted increases in housing starts, with the largest percentage increases in New Brunswick (66.7%), Nova Scotia (44.8%), and Quebec (37.2%). The largest decreases were shown by Prince Edward Island (-50.0%), British Columbia (-12.9%), and Manitoba (-12.5%). Alberta's housing starts decreased 0.7% in December to 27,400, but are up 25.2% from December 2000 and up 13.7% year to date.
Alberta	27,400	-0.7%	25.2%	
Canada	154,000	4.5%	24.1%	
Rigs Drilling	December			The number of active rigs drilling in Alberta rose by 6.8% in December, reflecting the seasonal upturn in activity. For the entire year 2001, rig activity is up 0.7% compared to the year 2000.
	264	6.8%	-33.2%	